

November 9, 2022



Dear Extended Time Parents:

We are proud to announce that Sylvania Community Services (SCS) is adopting a new model for its childcare programming which we believe will benefit our children and our community.

As part of an ongoing commitment to its mission, SCS undertook an extensive process to assess how it is best positioned to provide safe, quality child care within a rapidly changing environment. Our goal was the same as it had always been – to ensure children had access to enriching programming from pre-school through the fifth grade.

Our assessment indicated that the best approach for the community was for SCS to adopt a new way of doing business. SCS will continue to build on its increasing investment in pre-school programming while identifying a partner who is well positioned to take the school-age programming to a desired new level of excellence. Last week the SCS Board voted to contract with Right At School to provide its school-aged programming, beginning on June 1, 2023.

Through continuous dialogue with the School District, SCS identified Right At School as the ideal partner to join SCS to create a continuum of programming which will support the educational needs and well-being of our children.

Our leadership has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition to this new way of doing business for students, parents and our staff. The effective date for this change to begin is June 2023.

This is the right to time to tighten our focus

The needs of our children have changed significantly since 1977 when SCS began to provide childcare programming and even more significantly in the last three years.

As research began to emerge that demonstrated that quality pre-k programs significantly benefits children and the community, SCS began to increase its investment in pre-school programming before the pandemic.

Given the changes in the needs of children in pre-school and in school, the SCS Board determined the best use of SCS child care resources would be to continue to ramp up its investment in pre-school programming, while ensuring that a new partner would be in place to expand upon our commitment to high quality services for K-5 student, including: before school, after school, summer camp, and all-day programming.

We have the right partner

SCS believes that bringing in Right At School to provide school-age programming best meets our leadership's desire for a continuum of quality of services for youth from pre-k to 5th grade.

Right At School is a specialist. After-school programming/youth enrichment is their entire business. They currently are working in over 80 school districts across the United States, including Washington Local and many others across Ohio.

Right At School can best tell their story themselves, but our research indicates they are highly-regarded and have a strong track record. We look forward to contracting with them to ensure that when our pre-k students enter school they continue to benefit from outstanding enrichment programming.

The Right Transition

Before making this decision, SCS worked with Right At School to ensure that all stakeholders had a smooth transition. This means:

For your child(ren):

- SCS ensured that all current Extended Time employees will be offered employment at Right At School, so the staff that students are familiar with will still be with the program.
- With Right At School, we will be able to offer programming at each elementary school, including Highland and Sylvan, which are currently closed.
- Right At School will also offer summer camp programming, as well as school day-off programming. They also offer drop-ins as a flexible option for families.

For parents:

- SCS was able to achieve continuity for parents, not only with staff but also by ensuring that prices will remain the same in the 23-24 academic year.
- Through its partnership with SCS, Right At School is committed to growing its programs to meet parent demand, meaning they will be able to serve all interested families at each school.

Conclusion

A Parent's Forum is scheduled for November 29, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. Right At School will be present to provide you a thorough overview of their curriculum and the many benefits offered through their program.

Sylvania Community Services is committed to being a good steward of its mission. Our Board and Staff Leadership believes these changes to our pre-school and school-aged programs are the right thing for our community. We will do everything we can to ensure a smooth transition for all our stakeholders to a new way of doing business that better serves our children. If you have any questions, please contact me at (419) 885-4126.

Sincerely,

Sophia Lloyd

Sophia Lloyd, MSW
Executive Director



Parent FAQ

When will this go into effect?

Sylvania Community Services has entered into a contract with Right At School to begin delivering school-aged programming on June 1, 2023. Until then all before and after school programming including Winter and Spring Break Camps and All-Day Programming will continue to be delivered directly by Sylvania Community Services and its staff.

Will my fee go up?

In our commitment to you, Sylvania Community Services and Right At School mutually agreed there will be no fee increase for the 2023-24 academic year for parents enrolling in the before and after school programming.

Will there be any additional fees because of this change?

Right At School requires an annual standard registration fee for year-round programs, which is due in full upon registration. The registration fee is the only additional cost.

Will child care services change?

The type of services will not change. Sylvania Community Services is contracting with Right at School to provide before and after school services, all-day closing, weather delays, spring and winter break camps, and summer camp programs. What will change is program quality by Right At School's ability to bring their world-class enrichment programs through its 180+ Disguised Learning™ activities aligned to state standards that support learning acceleration, social-emotional learning, health & wellness, peer learning, and community service.

Will my child have the same before and after school teachers?

Recognizing the importance of continuity in your child's care and to ensure a smooth transition, Right At School has guaranteed employment offers to all SCS employees providing school-aged programming.

Will I have to register with Right At School?

Yes. Enrollment in Right At School can be done completely on line. When the time comes to register you will be provided a visual, step-by-step registration guide.

Can Right AT School accommodate my special needs child?

When children with special needs seek to enroll, Right At School staff will work with your family to determine the best placement for the child. Right At School reviews every situation on a case-by-case basis to determine if the Right At School large-group setting meets your child's needs. Right At School program staff will collaborate with the Right At School Inclusion Specialist, your family, and school staff/outside providers (with permission from parents) to best support each child. Children who have an aide during the school day may be required to have an aide during the program.

Will snack still be provided?

Yes. Your child will still receive a snack provided every day in afterschool, half day, and full day programs. Students are welcome to bring their own nut-free snacks from home if they prefer. All surfaces are cleaned before and after snack, and all students will wash hands prior to eating.

What are Right At School programs like?

Right At School programs keep students active, engaged, and healthy every day. They play group sports and fitness games - and take it outside as much as possible! Students who have homework have dedicated quiet time to focus on that, with support from talented educators. Their enrichment curriculum follows fun themes that cross a variety of subjects, sure to interest every learner.

Staff add in plenty of opportunities for socializing with friends, free choice activities, and child-led projects. Right At School incorporates service learning through Right Club Gives Back - student-chosen and student-led community service projects.

Will I still be able to use my Job & Family Services or Children Services subsidy?

Yes. Right At School has a subsidy coordinator to work with parents who use or may need assistance navigating subsidies provided by Job & Family Services or Lucas County Children Services.

Will I still have my sibling discount?

Yes. Right At School will offer sibling discounts for the before and after school programs, which will automatically apply to your account when you register two or more children in the same program. Additionally, Right At School offers military and free/reduced lunch discounts as well.

Does my School Principal and School Staff know about this change?

Sylvania Community Services and Right At School has worked closely with the School District Administration to ensure our ability to offer the highest quality of services to your child. All elementary school principals received a communication regarding this change. Additionally, SCS and Right At School will be attending the Elementary Principals meeting on November 21, 2022.

Will I get my deposit from SCS back?

Yes. SCS will issue deposits of all Extended Time accounts within 30 days of the close of the 2022-23 academic year, minus any balance due for services already delivered.

Who do I call with questions?

We understand with change comes questions. If you have any additional questions regarding the transition, please contact Sylvania Community Services Executive Director, Sophia Lloyd at 419-885-4126 (office) or 312-208-4740 (cell).

We encourage you to learn more about Right At School via their website at:

<https://www.rightatschool.com/districts/sylvania-oh/>